



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

PRESIDENT

Lawrence H. Einhorn, MD

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Larry Norton, MD

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Joseph S. Bailes, MD

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Donald L. Trump, MD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edward P. Ambinder, MD

Alan S. Coates, MD

Arlene A. Forastiere, MD

Sandra J. Horning, MD

David H. Johnson, MD

Theodore S. Lawrence, MD, PhD

Patricia Legant, MD

Michael P. Link, MD

Patrick J. Loehrer, Sr., MD

Monica Morrow, MD

Robert F. Ozols, MD, PhD

Philip J. Stella, MD

Margaret A. Tempero, MD

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Charles M. Balch, MD

March 15, 2001

The Honorable Greg Ganske
U.S. House of Representatives
1108 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ganske:

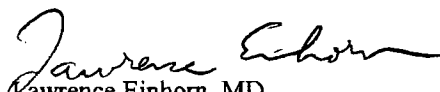
I am writing on behalf of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to express our support for the FDA Tobacco Authority Amendments Act. ASCO represents over 15,000 cancer specialists engaged directly in patient care and cancer research.

We greatly appreciate your consistent leadership on behalf of the federal regulation of tobacco products. As a physician, you know the serious health risks associated with tobacco use. Regrettably, ASCO members all too often see the deadly consequences of tobacco use – there are more than 156,000 annual deaths in the United States from lung cancer. Even persons who have successfully stopped smoking remain at risk of developing lung cancer for the rest of their lives. Smoking accounts for at least 30% of all cancer deaths, is a major cause of heart disease, and is associated with conditions ranging from colds and gastric ulcers to chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and cerebrovascular disease.

In the face of such daunting statistics, ASCO has made a commitment to reducing as much as possible the disease burden that tobacco use causes. We advocate a number of strong intermediate steps to further that goal. FDA regulation of tobacco products is the cornerstone to arresting the public health impact of tobacco use. Such regulation should unequivocally state that nicotine is an addictive substance and that tobacco products are drug delivery devices. Through regulation of the sale, promotion, and distribution of tobacco products, we will have a significant impact on tobacco use. In addition to regulation, we should also engage in public education and encourage modified social behaviors.

We will work with our membership to encourage more Representatives to sign on as cosponsors of your legislation. If you need more assistance, we are willing to do whatever we can to make tobacco regulation a reality. Please contact Suanna Bruinooge in ASCO's Public Policy and Practice Department at (703)299-1050, if you have further questions.

Sincerely,


Lawrence Einhorn, MD
ASCO President

2001 Annual Meeting
May 12-15, 2001
San Francisco, California

For more information
about ASCO Meetings
Phone: (703) 631-6200
Fax: (703) 818-6425